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Sex is old angle in spying game

Hostile intelligence activities directed against Americans and U.S. installations abroad have been a security problem since the 1950s. Here are some past cases:

According to former Soviet KGB officer Ilya Dzhirkvelov, two U.S. Marine guards were photographed in bed with male Soviet agents who tried to blackmail the guards in separate incidents in 1950 and 1954.

In 1961, Irvin C. Scarbeck, second secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, Poland, became the first Foreign Service officer convicted of spying after he was seduced and blackmailed into passing U.S. secrets by a female Polish intelligence agent.

Sometime during the 1960s, a U.S. journalist posted in Moscow became involved with a Soviet woman and was blackmailed by the KGB.

Sometime during the late 1970s, a U.S. ambassador to an African country was seduced by a female KGB agent into becoming an "agent of influence" for Moscow.

Beginning in 1976, the wife of the U.S. ambassador to Romania was seduced by a Romanian intelligence agent who worked as the ambassador's chauffeur.

CIA operative David Henry Barnett became a Soviet agent in the late 1970s after the KGB recruited him in Asia. He was convicted in 1980 of passing CIA secrets to Moscow.

In 1981, Assistant U.S. Military Attache in Moscow Maj. James R. Holbrook was drugged and photographed in bed with a female KGB agent and later was the unsuccessful target of Soviet blackmail.

CIA clerk Sharon Scranage passed classified information to the African nation of Ghana during a relationship with a Ghanaian official.

U.S. Embassy typewriters in Moscow were found to be "bugged" with Soviet transmitters that read secret diplomatic cables during the early 1980s.

A Soviet female employed as an administrator in the Moscow embassy for more than two decades until last fall was identified as a KGB colonel.

In 1985, U.S. officials discovered that the

chief Soviet engineer overseeing workers during construction of the new U.S. Embassy in Moscow since 1979 had been a KGB intelligence officer.

Officials later discovered that structural components of the new Moscow chancery building were built outside Moscow and contained built-in listening devices wired into the building's frame.

Officials disclosed that the 134 apartments inside the new Moscow embassy complex also were bugged.

Over the past year, U.S. security officials found tunnels containing electronic listening devices planted by the Chinese intelligence service under the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China, and at the U.S. consulate in Shanghai. Chinese intelligence agents also were hired by the embassy.

Former CIA operative Edward Lee Howard, a trainee destined for Moscow, defected to the Soviet Union in 1986 with details of secret CIA operations.

— Bill Gertz J